

Goodwill Fire Engine and Hose Company Engine House
1231 6th Avenue
Fourth Ward Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5850

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GOODWILL FIRE ENGINE AND HOSE COMPANY ENGINE HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5850

Location: 1231 6th Avenue

Date of Erection: between 1882-85

Description: This large-scale, two-story, brick structure is one of Altoona's early fire houses. Currently a restaurant, its exterior remains mostly unchanged. The gabled front of the structure sports a wood cornice that clips horizontally below the gable point for a three-sided effect. Cornice returns have been enclosed but brackets remain on front and side facades. Three wide window bays in the second floor are spaced over two first-floor entrance bays; the one at left is still configured as a garage door entrance for fire engines. Ceiling height is high--the two-story fire house is almost as tall as its three-story neighbors. A one-story, brick-veneered addition to the left of the main block first appears as a hose tower on the 1894 Sanborn map. Commercial-style wood brackets across the first-floor facade suggest an awning such as the one presently in use. There are four windows along the second-floor side facade; the first-floor one is bricked in and a door substitutes for another at the back edge of the buildings. Inset stone broken-arch window pediments have been picked out with white paint, as have several flat recessed panels in the brickwork of the gable front.

History: The Citizens Engine and Hose Company was organized April 21, 1859. Officers were elected on May 7. The company received its first engine from the Goodwill Company in Philadelphia and, in honor of this sponsor, was renamed the Goodwill Fire Engine and Hose Company, No. 1, in November 1859. The company's first building, at 9th Avenue and 12th Street, was built by another sponsor, the PRR. The company later relocated to a one-story frame building at the alley between 5th and 6th avenues. Greevy's 1873 Altoona city directory put the company's meeting place on 13th Street between 5th and 6th avenues.

The city of Altoona purchased the current site, a 50' x 100' lot, from Jonathan and Margaret Conrad on July 1, 1869, for \$1,600. In 1869 it was described as "having erected thereon a two-story frame building now in the occupancy of J. M. Douney." The current brick building was built after 1882; the Goodwill Company moved in 1885. The structure was later known as Engine House No. 2, and by 1909 was referred to as Fire Station No. 2. It retained that name at least through 1968. In 1978 the city sold three of its fire houses, this one to Patrick W. and Bernadine Dellape for \$12,100. The interior has been renovated as a bar and restaurant.

Sources: Maps: 1882, 1888, 1894, 1909. Deed books: K/222, X/568, 1023/1291. City directories. Altoona Centennial Booklet, 73. Illustrated Altoona, 117-18.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. Overviews of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and the fourth ward neighborhood (HABS No. PA-5786) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Susan Garfinkel in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of HABS senior historian Alison K. Hoagland and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Garfinkel's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.